

Fall 2011

International Panther, Fall 2011

University of Northern Iowa. Culture and Intensive english Program.

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The International Panther

Fall 2011

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The CIEP has seen much growth in the past year. Currently, the program enrolls nearly 140 students. This growth has been a challenge but also an opportunity. For example, it has allowed the CIEP to expend more resources on staff and extra-curricular

events. The CIEP is currently seeking to fill the newly created position of Academic Support Coordinator. This position will afford the program better coordination of its curriculum development and better instruction for the students. In addition, the CIEP recently co-sponsored an overnight trip to Chicago for nearly 100 international students from UNI; most of the students were participants in the CIEP. In brief, as CIEP continues to grow, its goal is to manage resources in a way that contributes to students learning and the quality of the program.

From the Director:
Phil Plourde

Philip Plourde

Students participate in Book Safari

Reading Safari is all about reading for pleasure, fun, and enjoyment, and it involves hunting (for books) and exploring (ideas and topics). The founders of this program, Jaime Lyon and Gail Farber, hope that Reading Safari will be the beginning of a life-long journey (of reading for fun!) for CIEP students.

This new club meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 3-4p.m. in the Rod Library. So, who is coming to Reading Safari? Five people from six levels of the Culture and Intensive English Program (CIEP) may elect to attend.

Reading Safari members usually meet in the Youth Collection of the Rod Library. Club members are free to choose any book at any level on any topic that they like. Students can select books from the shelves, and if they find they have chosen something too easy or too difficult, they can easily find another book more appropriate to their level of reading ability. This time is all about enjoying reading. On Tuesdays, members read from the shelves; on Thursdays, they meet in one of the Rod Library's instruction rooms where they are introduced to online media intended to improve reading skills.

Club members also enjoy the American volunteers who come once a month to read with them and share their own love of reading. Always, Reading Safari is about reading for the pure pleasure of it.

As they read, Reading Safari members practice reading quickly and with better understanding. English-language syntax and discourse patterns are reinforced, and vocabulary is introduced indirectly and in the context of the reading. In addition, Safari members are exposed to a great deal of American culture by reading level-appropriate but authentic literature.

Research indicates that the advantages of using authentic literature to teach or improve reading are many: literature "... may provide the affective, attitudinal, and experiential factors which will motivate them to read...aid in the development of reading proficiency...[and] may work to promote a greater tolerance for cultural differences,"—a goal that is "essential in order for college students to learn how to live and work effectively with others who differ from themselves (Gurin, 1999; Smith & Schonfeld, 2000 as cited in Zhao, Kuh, & Carini, 2005, p. 209).



So far, the response to Reading Safari has been very positive. Club members come excited and eager to find a new book or finish one they have already started. And because of several helpful and engaging workshops presented by Library Instruction Coordinator Chris Neuhaus, students are also learning how to conduct library searches, get Cedar Falls Public Library cards, be independent learners, and—the Reading Safari goal—become effective life-long readers who will enrich their own lives and share the love of reading with others.

*Written by: Jaime Lyon, Gail Farber,
CIEP Instructors*

Current Students

CIEP student, Maiytham Alsultan, performs in 'Zeitoun'

Sally Roos, CIEP Activities Coordinator

Maiytham Alsultan used reading, writing, listening and speaking skills when he was selected to participate in a student production at the University of Northern Iowa. Alsultan, a CIEP student from Saudi Arabia, acted as a Syrian man in a play titled *Zeitoun*, which originated as a book about a Muslim American's experience after Hurricane Katrina. The team of actors presented the play to UNI this Fall 2011 in the Strayer-Wood Theater. As one of two international students in the play, Maiytham experienced challenges that the other actors did not experience.

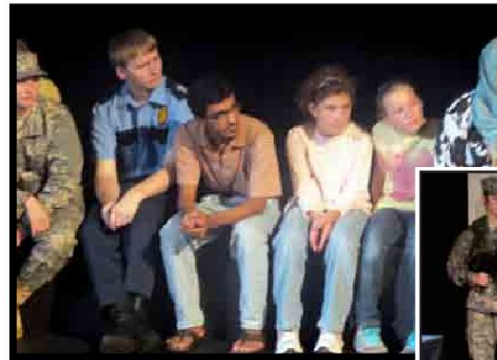
"Every actor has to face the challenge of acting but for me, I have to think about two things: the difficulty of the acting and the difficulty of the language," he said.

"I'm very proud of them in terms of the product they came up with," said Richard Glockner, the director of the play.

Glockner met Maiytham because of his participation in a workshop about American Taboos sponsored by the CIEP in July. The facilitator of the program, Julie Thoreen, spotted his creative talents and introduced him

to Glockner, who was looking for Arab actors. Maiytham remembers that Richard did not give him the part right away, but welcomed him onto the team of UNI students.

"We worked as a company. We read the book--all of us...Each group had a duty to research about something. My research was about the people who were arrested wrongly," he said, reflecting on the process.



Each person gave a presentation about their research, and Glockner incorporated student input to select the most important parts for the script. Then they read through the script with their assigned parts.

"He told me, 'Don't memorize the script.' He told us to act from our mind," Maiytham said. The cast rehearsed three hours per day during the month of August, which was also the holy month of Ramadan—a time when Muslims fast during daylight hours.

This became difficult when rehearsal times switched to evening hours, but Glockner was supportive and gave Maiytham and his fellow Saudi, Omar Alsuwaim, an extra break for prayer and to break their fast. Having worked in the Gaza strip, the director said he is quite familiar with the culture.

The group also built and painted the set they would perform on. Overall, Maiytham considered it a good experience.

'Zeitoun' was performed in the Strayer-Wood Theater on the UNI campus earlier this semester.



"I'm interested in acting...It will help me in my future life if I want to write something or act something—now I know the procedure," he said.

In the play, the main character Abdulrahman Zeitoun refuses to evacuate New Orleans but stays behind to help others. His heroism results in distrust when Zeitoun gets arrested without reason. His American wife, Kathy, is unable to reach him for days as Zeitoun is given no contact with the outside world. She assumes her husband has died. Zeitoun is accused of terrorist activities and is kept in prison for almost one month without a trial until his family returns with character witnesses.

To Glockner, the play is about breaking down barriers.

"I knew very little about the Arab world until I met some Palestinians in Poland," admitted Glockner. "...By having to deal one-on-one, it's the best way to break down barriers."

Maiytham also recalled the lesson he wants to the audience to learn:

"It doesn't matter how we are different from each other. People are each different in many ways. It matters how we respect each other. It matters how we help each other."

"It doesn't matter how we are different from each other. People are each different in many ways. It matters how we respect each other. It matters how we help each other."

Current Student Profile: Francheska Arbore

Sally Roos, CIEP Activities Coordinator

Five years from now, Francheska Arbore hopes to be working under the fashion expertise of Carolina Herrera—a famous fashion designer from Venezuela and a friend of Arbore’s family. At seventeen years old, Francheska understands that learning English in the Culture and Intensive English Program is one of the steps toward achieving her goals.

“English is one of the languages in business, so if you do not know that, you can’t do anything,” she said, reasoning that people in fashion capitols like Miami or New York don’t speak Spanish.

Francheska’s journey to the CIEP at the University of Northern Iowa began when she attended a college fair at her high school and became interested in studying abroad. Argentina was her destination of choice at the time, but with the guidance of her adviser, she selected UNI because it had a Textiles and Apparels program as well as an intensive English program. Francheska admits she did not want to take the TOEFL exam. However, the CIEP has helped her improve her vocabulary and work on her writing and speaking skills.

“For me, CIEP in the beginning, CIEP helped me a lot to speak English...” she remembered. “I was talking like a baby.”

Venezuelan children begin studying English in Elementary school, but Francheska said she learned more English from watching television and vacationing with her mom in the United States in California and Florida. While Cedar Falls is no vacation spot, Arbore appreciates the quality of life in Iowa. “Sometimes I miss the noise of the city, but it’s better here,” she said. “...I like the cold weather. It’s better than the hot weather.”



The most difficult adjustment has been learning to be independent. According to Francheska, her mom always helped her with everything in Venezuela, but now she has learned how to pay bills, go shopping, eat in the dining centers, and keep her room clean all by herself.

“Sometimes I don’t want to do anything, and then I miss my mom,” the teenager admitted.

Fortunately, Francheska isn’t alone. She’s actively involved in the CIEP activities. During the Fall semester, she attended the Schrage’s Farm activity, Adventureland and Chicago Trips with other CIEP students. She recently presented about Venezuelan facts and culture to classmates and other UNI students at a CIEP event for International Education Week.

The all-women’s dormitory, Lawther Hall, also sponsors special house programs where students do activities, eat meals, or see movies together. House programs have been a great source of friendship for Francheska.

“It’s really fun—all the different activities,” she said. “We always bake something and eat something.”

After finishing CIEP, Francheska plans to get her degree in Textiles and Apparels and return to Venezuela. Until then, she passes time by searching new designers on the internet or seeing the fashion runway shows, and of course, studying English!

Welcome New Students!

Fall 1 2011

Albandair Aldaous
Hesham Alfaraj
Aseel ALlehaiby
Eman Almabuk
Yahya Almitib
Maryam Alnasser
Ayat Alrashid
Ali Alrubh
Faisal Alsabt
Muteb Alsahli
Ali Alyami
Abdullah Ba Baidan
Changqing Chen
Yin Chen
Mo Cheng
Xiaokai Cui
Jose Espinoza
Eri Goto
Laxmi Gurung
LiangYing Huang
Dong Jiang
Luyao Jiang
Longhai Jin
Xin Jin
Dongwoo Kang
Yuka Kohama
Jun Xiang Li
Luhan Li
Lin Ling
Elena Lyalina
Ita Mayasari
Yuka Nagayasu
Takamasas Okada
Yinghong Shao
Yuqiong Shen
YungTa Su
Saeko Tsuji
Dmitry Vasilistoy
Lulu Wang
Xuesong Wang
Zeya Wang
Yuning Xu
Yuki Yamamoto
Jing Yuan
Liyuan Zhou
Jingying Zhuang

Fall 2 2011

Talal AbuAsidh
Amjad Abushaqarh
Qasem Alawami
Noor Hassan AlRebh
Fatimah Alnemer
Sophie Bitwayiki
Musallam Bin Shaji
Evelia Lena
Daichi Makino
Pamella Poersch
Pengfei Sun
Wenjun Wang

CIEP ALUMNI

Congratulations to our GRADUATES!

Abdullah Alasmari

Home Country: Saudi Arabia
Current Plans: Communication Studies major at UNI

Zahra Alawami

Home Country: Saudi Arabia
Current Plans: Pursuing a masters degree at UNI

Mustsafa Almitib

Home Country: Saudi Arabia
Current Plans: Electrical Engineering Technology major at UNI

Safa AlRabie

Home Country: Saudi Arabi
Current Plans: Networking and]System Administration major at UNI

Anh Thuy Le

Home Country: Vietnam
Current Plans: Taking academic classes at UNI

Former Student Profile: Diane Ihimbazwe

Sally Roos, CIEP Activities Coordinator

Diane Ihimbazwe is a former CIEP student with a heart to help others at home. Originally from Rwanda, she hopes to use the knowledge gained in college to benefit those who are living in poverty in her home country and surrounding areas.

“I want to work in all environments that live under poverty,” she said, boldly. As a biotechnology major, most of her classes are in biology and health. However, when Diane graduates, she plans to go to graduate school for epidemiology—the study of the causes and prevention for diseases among populations. She is currently a junior but has looked at epidemiology program at the University of Iowa as well as the University of Chicago.

According to Diane, high mortality and disease rates are often caused by simple things. “Some people don’t even know that the water they drink is going to affect them,” she said. “Some people die of a cold because they don’t have any method of prevention...I think the numbers would go really low if people just washed their hands.”

Diane’s sisters started an Ihimbazwe legacy of success in CIEP. Nancy enrolled in the CIEP in 2004 when she realized it would be faster than waiting to get in to college in Rwanda. Then Nadine came to Cedar Falls and enrolled in 2007. Both of Diane’s sisters started at a lower English proficiency level and worked hard to graduate from CIEP and take academic classes at UNI. Nadine recently graduated from UNI in May 2011 and finished an internship at John Deere. Nancy



Sisters Diane, Nancy, and Nadine are all CIEP graduates and currently taking academic classes at UNI.

is now an auditor for Medtronics—an international medical technology company based out of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Diane came to Cedar Falls in 2008 with a different language background than her sisters. She had attended a bilingual high school in Rwanda, where she studied English and French. She tested into an intermediate level English class in the CIEP.

“CIEP is great,” said Diane, reflecting on her experience. “It went very fast because it was so intensive. ...I was really glad I went through the CIEP because it helped me a lot.”

One of Diane’s favorite activities was the Conversation Partner program. “My Conversation Partner helped me get used to American culture,” she said.

“Appreciate being in the CIEP and what you’re learning in the CIEP it is going to help you a lot in your academic school.”

After CIEP, Diane became an active leader on campus through Model United Nations, African Union and, most recently, Dance Marathon—a temporary fundraiser to help underprivileged children during the twelve hour dance marathon event in February. Her favorite activity is serving as

Secretary for the African Union. “I meet people from all over Africa,” she said. “It amazes me how we’re so alike yet so different.”

Some students want to rush through CIEP to begin academic classes, but Diane recommends they slow down and enjoy their time. Even the homework load is worth it, according to Diane. “Appreciate being in the CIEP and what you’re learning in the CIEP is going to help you a lot in your academic school.”

CIEP ACTIVITIES

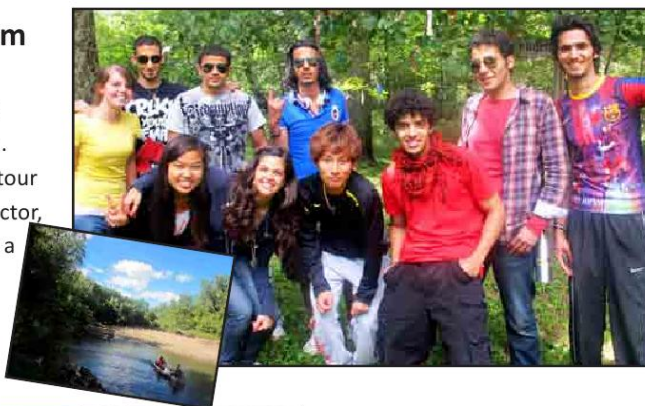


Chicago Trip

During the weekend of October 22, several CIEP students traveled to Chicago. While they were there, they visited many landmarks including: Millenium Park, the Sears Tower, and the Chicago Board of Trade.

Day at Schrage's Farm

To celebrate the Labor Day holiday, CIEP students spent a day at Chris Schrage's farm. Students had the chance to tour the farm, learn to drive a tractor, go canoeing, cook food over a campfire and play some volleyball and soccer.



Class Exchange

Throughout the semester, students have the opportunity to meet with students in academic classes at UNI. They spend a class period discussing culture, differences in academic study and practicing their listening and speaking skills

Adventureland

On September 10, CIEP students had the opportunity to spend the day at Adventureland Amusement Park in Des Moines, Iowa. They were able to enjoy rides, foods, vendors, and games.



Fall 2011 CIEP Cultural Activities included:

Adventureland Trip

Volunteering at Aspire Therapeutic Program

Games from Brazil

Class Exchanges

Chicago Trip

Girl's Night

Ice Cream Party

Culture Talks

Trip to Schrage's Farm

RSVP

Coffee Hours

Japanese Cooking Class

Reading Safari

Halloween Dance

International Food Potluck

Celebrate! Event

International Education Week

Homecoming Festival

International Friendship Program Potlucks

Book Safari

Intensive English Business Program (IBEP)



*Kelly Keegan, CIEP
Instructor*

This July students from China and Brazil came together at UNI for the Culture and Intensive English Program's (CIEP) and UNIBusiness Global Associates' first Intensive Business English Program (IBEP). Designed to bring students from around the world together

to improve their business English skills through classes and trips to Iowa businesses, the program's pilot run proved to be a great success.

IBEP began with an idea from UNI business professor and Global Opportunities Coordinator, Chris Schrage. After witnessing success with a similar program in China, Schrage thought, "Why not UNI?" The idea was welcomed by CIEP staff and the ball started rolling in preparation for the new program.

Mike Williams, long-time CIEP instructor, was asked to coordinate the first IBEP. His previous experience with the coordination and development of special summer programs in the past made him a valuable part of this new IBEP venture. "I have been fortunate to be part of an excellent committee made up of CIEP staff, the UNIBusiness Global Associates, and area companies' representatives who contributed to the ongoing evolution and success of this program," he said.

As staff prepared in Iowa, four students from

Brazil and one student from China prepared for their three-week trip to Iowa as participants in the first IBEP. "I didn't know much about Iowa before going. All I knew was it was a place with a lot of farms, and cities that were very near to each other," Silvia Gualberto said. For Gualberto and a few other students, this trip to Iowa was their first time abroad. The three-week itinerary was full of English classes, trips to area businesses, and unique cultural experiences. The IBEP students attended regular CIEP English courses along with a specialized business English course to introduce business vocabulary and terminology related to the companies they would visit.

"These students had a hunger to learn as much as possible about the operations of American companies from management philosophy to daily operations and how culture also plays a role in these areas," Williams noted.

The students had the chance to visit small, local businesses, as well as international businesses like John Deere, Pioneer, and ESP International. "I really liked the small businesses, like Barn Happy, Alpaca's Ranch...It shows that you can be successful doing something new and innovative," Gualberto said. Yuan (Daniel) Chen had another perspective. "As the only one without working experience, the visits to giant American companies taught me a lot."

Besides visits to businesses, the students spent time experiencing Iowa culture: a day at Schrage's farm, a tour of the state capital building, shopping, swimming at a waterpark, watching a waterskiing show, barbecuing in the park, and experiencing a day with a host family. "I used to feel a little embarrassed of talking to someone in English and now it seems really natural to me. This experience showed me the world is full of possibilities and opportunities that I didn't know," Gualberto added.

Another IBEP student, Loyce Barbosa, remarked, "The most valuable part was the opportunity to study and talk to students of different countries. During the classes we knew each other, about different cultures and different way of thinking about the world. Iowa is a fantastic place, well-educated people and patient teachers. I want to come back!"

With the first IBEP under their belt, Schrage, Williams, and other committee members have already discussed improvements and changes for next year's IBEP. For example, "More time for homework is needed as we put a lot into a short time," Schrage stated. Williams mentioned an expansion of the business English class to include guest speakers from area businesses and companies as well.

National Chengchi University (NCCU)

Cristy Steffen, Promotions Assistant

In the beginning of July, nine students from National Chengchi University (NCCU) traveled to the University of Northern Iowa to participate in an exchange program arranged through the Office of International Programs and the Biology Undergraduate Research Program.

These students stayed in the campus dormitories for four weeks while taking courses in the CIEP and participating in a research program with students in the biology department.

NCCU students had the opportunity to join other summer program and CIEP students on various trips and activities. In their first week of the program, NCCU students had the opportunity to experience and American Barbeque, tour Indulgence and visit many businesses in the downtown area. Students also participated in the CIEP talent show. In the



show, they performed a Taiwanese dance, taking the prize for "Most Well-Rehearsed."

Throughout their program, NCCU also visited Schrage's farm, having the opportunity to go canoeing and enjoy a campfire. In addition to these

trips, the students also experienced true Iowa culture by visiting Hansen's Dairy Farm. There they were able to try homemade ice cream and learn about farming in Iowa.

Fatih University Summer Program

Kelly Keegan, CIEP Instructor

Today, Wikipedia is most people's "go-to", or first stop, when looking up any kind of new information. Sitting in Istanbul, Turkey, Samet Ozturk, typed in "Iowa" on Wikipedia and learned 35% of Iowans were of German origin. Feyza Ay did the same from Balikesir, Turkey and browsed through the pictures. Both were preparing to come to Cedar Falls for a summer exchange program between their university in Turkey (Fatih University) and UNI.

Samet, Feyza, and three other Fatih students arrived on May 31st for their one-month stay at UNI. The contrast between Istanbul, where Fatih University is located, and Cedar Falls were immediately evident. "Istanbul is so big (over 13 million according to Wikipedia). You know it's the largest city in Turkey. And Cedar Falls is so small and quiet," explained Feyza. While the quietness on campus and around town took some getting used to, the students were kept busy with different English courses in Listening and Speaking, Conversation, and American culture through CIEP.

Evenings and weekends were filled with local trips to a dairy farm, a



waterskiing show, Sturgis Falls (an annual Cedar Falls celebration), plus day trips to Des Moines, IA, Dubuque, IA and Galena, Ill. In addition to the trip, other activities like bowling, a photo scavenger hunt, an international potluck, and a day with an American host family were on their itinerary as well.

As the four weeks drew to a close and the Fatih group began packing their bags bound for their home country, Samet felt he learned a lot through the classes and other activities. "I improved my speaking abilities, learned about American individualism, and found that people are very warm and friendly here."

Feyza agreed. "Before I came, I heard that American people were not friendly.

Now my opinion has changed. I also learned a lot about the American lifestyle like food choices and other habits."

There was unanimous agreement that the best part of their experience at UNI was the time spent one-on-one talking with American students. "It was nice to make American friends and talk with native English speakers," Feyza said. She added that it was also interesting meeting other international students studying English in CIEP.

Samet and Feyza would recommend this exchange to other Turkish students who are looking to improve their English speaking abilities and have an interest in experiencing American culture.

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)

Steve Schutz, CIEP Instructor

"It's like we're in the movies" was the consensus of the five students from Brazil upon arriving in Cedar Falls as part of the Iowa-Midwest Brazil Exchange on Business and Agriculture. Five institutions participate in this exchange which also sends Iowa students to study in Brazil: the University of Northern Iowa, Hawkeye Community College, Kirkwood Community College, the Universidade de Brasilia and the Universidade Federal de Goias. So on July 5th, Joao Paulo Fonseca Borges, Alexandre Mesquita, Antoniele Pereira, Marina Rezende and Joao Pedro Tavares Damasceno arrived at UNI to begin their study in Iowa with English language classes at the CIEP.

As soon as they landed in Iowa, the CIEP had events planned to help them adjust to their new surroundings, starting with an introduction to UNI culture with lunch at the OP on the Hill. Other events of the first week included orientation, a campus tour, a welcome party, a tour of downtown Cedar Falls, a talent show where the FISPE students danced "quadrilha," a traditional

Brazilian dance, and a day at Schrage's farm in Parkersburg, Iowa where they canoed, played volleyball, cooked hotdogs and deer brats over an open fire, and met other students from the CIEP.

After three weeks in regular CIEP classes, the FIPSE students had one more week of classes designed especially for them integrating business ethics with English language instruction. In addition to classes, the students participated in a Photo Scavenger Hunt, toured John Deere Engine Works, and enjoyed a family style American Breakfast consisting of eggs, bacon, blueberry pancakes, and coffee.

As the FIPSE students shifted their focus from English language classes to academic classes at UNI and Hawkeye, Antoniele wrote on her blog: "I had the great opportunity to improve my English during the English classes. Now, I am more prepared to take classes at Hawkeye.... Thank you CIEP, for all the opportunities you provide me. I will remember these times forever."



CIEP World's Window: Brazil

Fast Facts about Brazil

- *Brazil has the 5th largest population in the world, currently reaching over 190 million people.
- *It is home to more than half of the Amazon Rainforest.
- *The native language is Portuguese, which was developed from Latin and is now spoken by over 240 million people.
- *The capital city, Brasilia, is most famous for its urban planning and architecture.
- *Brazil has a rich art culture and many famous pieces can be found throughout the country including the statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro.
- *The center of Brazil trade and industry is in Sao Paulo, one of the largest cities in the country.

Brazil has beautiful architecture and thriving cities. However, Brazil is not without its challenges.

Former CIEP student and current UNI student, Joao Borges wrote the adjacent piece on the challenges in Brazil. Joao is a Business student participating in the FIPSE grant program.



Accredited by



Joao Borges

It has been quite recurrent in the media stories about how Brazil is thriving in the current world's economy. High GDP growth rates, increasing revenue of industries and fast development of energy technologies are some of the topics mentioned when journalists and economists describe the country's success, but that often causes a distorted view of the reality. Not because these facts are nonexistent, because they are true, but many times they fail to take into account a problem that still ravages our country: social inequality.

One of the main examples of the social disparity in the country can be found in the very capital, Brasilia. The downtown area and the nearest neighborhoods are flooded with politicians, businesspeople and civil servants that earn triple digit salaries and have lifestyles that are equivalent to those of people who live in the finest cities of the developed world. On the other hand, in some of the surrounding areas – where most of the blue-collar workers live – located not too far from the National Congress, people live in inhuman conditions, with poverty and violence indicators that can only be matched by civil war stricken African countries.

Another classic example is Rio de Janeiro, perhaps the most well-known city among foreigners. Several of the hills around the downtown area have turned into slums that, in many cases, don't offer any kind of sewage system, public transportation or law



enforcement for it's dwellers. Due to the lack of presence of the government, it is sadly common to find areas where the law and public order are dictated by drug lords.

The causes of this unfortunate situation date back to colonial times and the way the country has developed since then. As a mere provider of natural resources such as land, wood, gold and other minerals to Portugal, Brazil witnessed from the year of 1500 until the end of the nineteenth century the creation of a clear economic disparity between workers – mostly slaves, natives and, in the late 1800's, impoverished European immigrants – and the dominant class of farmers and businessmen with family roots in Europe. After the abolition of slavery, most of the former slaves were kicked out of the farms and ended up without a place to live and with no assistance whatsoever from the government, which was one of the main causes of the formation of slums.

No one can deny the fact that Brazil is doing a remarkable job with its economy, development and growth as an important player in the world's scenario. However, it is important to be aware of the challenges that are still being faced by their people and how they can influence the future of the country and of a world with Brazil as one of its most influential players.

Culture & Intensive English Program

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